



It's easy to waste time and money when trying to learn a language.

There are ways to avoid that.

Better Learning: Make Good Use of Your Time

One of the more common questions I hear is how students can maximise their learning. My answer is always the same: get a good teacher and join a class where there's plenty of conversation.

We can't learn a language without speaking so never go for options that don't include substantial conversation practise. They haven't invented a machine that can replace talking to a teacher yet!

Also, excellent teachers make every student learn, average teachers allow some students to learn and bad teachers get no one to learn! Therefore, make sure your teachers are good.

Here are some more hints.

- Don't study too little. With one hour a week you'll progress so slowly you will not notice any improvement.
- Spend double time in homework than in class. You will learn faster at lower cost.
- Never join large groups. You will not learn if you don't get enough time to speak.
- Never pay for online courses that don't include live teachers. Again, you won't learn if you can't speak or have no one who can comment on your mistakes.
- Confront your teacher if you feel you are not progressing. If the answer is unsatisfactory change teacher or school.
- Test your level with exams. Neither you nor your tutors are objective enough.
- Be punctual to class. Ten minutes late could mean one hour less every month.
- Forget miracle systems. You only learn by studying and practising.
- Don't miss lessons. If you have to miss more than a quarter of the course stop studying and leave English for less busy times.
- Avoid classes that become social occasions rather than lessons. You pay to learn—join a club if you only want to chat.
- Never attend groups with mixed levels. You will either understand nothing or get bored.
- Change your trainer every two years so you get used to different accents.
- If you are studying online do every exercise more than once. Repetition is one of the best ways to learn.

- Don't stop for too long between courses. If you do, you'll need several months to regain your previous level.
- Don't take group classes if you feel you have learning problems. Private lessons are better in this case.

Andrew's advice: Don't study with methods that you don't enjoy. Look for a different school or system if you feel you're wasting your time.



Want to improve your English? Learn at your office with English for Business. Contact us at www.englishforbusiness.es or at 934 230 229.
